

Treasury Department
Feb 7th 1854

Sir

By the act of Congress of August 1852, intended to guard against steam boat calamities, it is, among other things provided that funible alloy shall be used as a test of the heat and pressure of the steam. This funible alloy has been prepared at the Navy Yard in this city, but not in such a way as to give perfect satisfaction, and it is now resolved to transfer the business to some other establishment.

Could you conveniently prepare this funible alloy, the component parts of which are tin, lead, and bismuth, at the Mint in Philadelphia? Refiners is the only establishment in immediate connection with this Department in which there is much chemical skill, and it is of great importance, inasmuch as the lives of hundreds of passengers may depend on it, that this alloy should be well prepared.

Very Respectfully
James McKim
Secretary of Treasury.

To

James C. Booth Esq
Melter & Refiner,
U. S. Mint
Philad^a

1857

February 10

James Guthrie

Sec. Gen.

Washington

D.C.